
Hyde Road School

Preliminary Ecological Assessment

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 This Preliminary Ecological Assessment has been prepared by BDP on behalf of Manchester City Council, to accompany a planning application for a new school development at land off Hyde Road, Manchester (hereinafter referred to as the "Site").

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The Site is located in Manchester (grid reference: SJ8761396217) bound by Hyde Road (A57) to the north, Kirkmanshulme Lane to the south, residential dwellings associated with Ellen Wilkinson Crescent and the British Car Auctions site to the west and the Gala Bingo site to the east. The wider landscape is dominated by large residential developments, commercial developments and urban green space (ref. Figure 1).



Figure 1. The Hyde Road School site

1.3 Planning

- 1.3.1 Biodiversity is a material consideration to the planning process and consideration must be given to the protection, retention and improvement of existing biodiversity features. As the proposed new school development will have a significant impact on the existing habitats within the site, consideration should be given to potential protected and notable sites, habitats and species which may be present within and/or adjacent to the Site by the planning authority when considering the development proposals.
- 1.3.2 This report will allow the Local Planning Authority (LPA) to assess the impact of the proposed development on any ecological features present within the Site.

1.4 Objectives

1.4.1 The survey was commissioned to accompany the planning application for the proposed redevelopment of the Site. The aim of the survey was to:

- Describe and map the habitats present on the Site;
- Assess any potential impact on protected sites, habitats and/or species;
- Identify where further surveys may be required; and
- Provide recommendations to protect and enhance site ecology

2.0 Methodology

2.1 Desktop Study

- 2.1.1 A desktop study was carried out to obtain and review ecological information held by the Local Record Centre and other publically accessible online sources. Ecological information for protected and notable sites and species within the Site and a 2km radius thereof was provided by the Greater Manchester Ecological Unit (GMEU).
- 2.1.2 In addition to the consultation process, a review of the local and national planning framework was carried out, including:

National Policy

- National Planning Policy Framework, February 2019
- Habitats and Species of Principal Importance, August 2010

Local Policy

- Core Strategy Development Plan Document, Adopted 11 July 2012
- Guide to Development in Manchester Supplementary Planning Document and Planning Guidance, Adopted April 2007
- Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan, 2009

2.2 Site Survey

- 2.2.1 A site survey was undertaken on the 23 November 2020, in sub-optimal conditions for botanical survey, however, due to the types of habitats present it was deemed that an accurate assessment of the Site could be made.
- 2.2.2 The site survey was undertaken by Anthony Nickson and Bruce Shortland. Both surveyors are experienced in Phase 1 habitat survey and protected species survey and both are full members of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (MCIEEM).

Habitats

- 2.2.3 The site survey was undertaken in accordance with JNCC standards (JNCC, revised 2016). Habitats present on Site were mapped and assigned a Phase 1 category. Botanical nomenclature follows the New Flora of the British Isles (Stace, 2019).

Invasive plants

- 2.2.4 During the site survey particular attention was given to searching for invasive plant species listed under Schedule 9 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- 2.2.5 This report does not cover Japanese Knotweed which has previously been identified within the Site. The location details and proposed eradication / management of Japanese Knotweed is covered in a separately commissioned report (Environet, July 2020).

Protected Species

- 2.2.6 Evidence of, and/or the potential for the presence of protected species was recorded during the site survey. Based on the desktop study and habitat types present on Site, particular attention was paid to the following species:

Bats

2.2.7 All British bat species and their roosts are protected under European Law (The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017) and UK Law (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended). As such it is an offence to undertake the following acts:

- Deliberately capture, injure or kill bats
- Damage or destroy a breeding or resting place
- Obstruct access to their resting or sheltering places
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat while it's in a structure or place of shelter or protection

2.2.8 As the proposals for the Site will impact existing buildings and trees, particular attention was given to bats.

Habitat Suitability

2.2.9 Initially, a review of publically accessible online mapping systems was undertaken to assess the habitats present on the Site and in the surrounding area. The review assessed the suitability of the habitats to support and provide connectivity for commuting and foraging bats.

Table 1. Guidelines for assessing the potential suitability of proposed development sites for bats based on the presence of habitat features within the landscape

Suitability	Commuting and foraging habitats
Negligible	Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by commuting or foraging bats.
Low	Habitat that could be used by small numbers of commuting bats such as a gappy hedgerow or unvegetated stream, but isolated, i.e. not very well connected to the surrounding landscape by other habitat. Suitable, but isolated habitat that could be used by small numbers of foraging bats such as a lone tree (not in a parkland situation) or a patch of scrub.
Moderate	Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for commuting such as lines of trees and scrub or linked back gardens. Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, scrub, grassland or water.
High	Continuous, high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by commuting bats such as river valleys, streams, hedgerows, lines of trees and woodland edge. High-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by foraging bats such as broadleaved woodland, tree lined watercourses and grazed parkland. Site is close to and connected to known roosts.

Preliminary Roost Assessment

2.2.10 In addition, a preliminary roost assessment of the existing buildings, built structures and existing trees within and immediately surrounding the site was undertaken. An external inspection and internal inspection (where accessible) of the buildings, built structures and trees was undertaken to search for, and to assess the potential for, a bat roost to be present.

2.2.11 The external inspection of the trees involved a visual examination of each tree from the ground using close-focusing binoculars to search the trunk and the canopy for potential roosting features (PRFs). A high-powered torch was used to inspect cavities or shaded areas of the trees. Features of trees commonly used by bats for roosting and shelter, and field signs that may indicate use of trees by bats, were also recorded. Potential roosting features that may be used by bats include:

- woodpecker holes;
- rot holes;
- hazard beams;
- other vertical or horizontal cracks and splits (such as frost cracks) in stems or branches;
- partially detached platey bark;
- knot holes arising from naturally shed branches, or branches previously pruned back to the branch collar;
- man-made holes (e.g. cavities that have developed from flush cuts) or cavities created by branches tearing out from parent stems;
- cankers (caused by localised bark death) in which cavities have developed;
- other hollows or cavities, including butt-rots;
- double-leaders forming compression forks with included bark and potential cavities;
- gaps between overlapping stems or branches;
- partially detached ivy with stem diameters in excess of 50mm;
- bat, bird or dormouse boxes.

2.2.12 The external inspection of the buildings and built structures included, for example, looking for gaps between any soffit boards and walls, gaps between window frames and the walls, and looking for bat droppings on the walls and window ledges. Following the external survey, an internal survey of accessible loft spaces was also carried out to search for evidence of a bat roost. This included looking for the following signs:

- live or dead bats
- bat droppings
- bat entry/exit points
- bat urine staining
- grease marks on any timbers
- feeding remains such as insect wings
- areas clear of cobwebs

2.2.13 The buildings, built structures and trees were then assessed in accordance with the guidelines for assessing the potential suitability of proposed development sites for bats (BCT, 2016).

Table 2. Guidelines for assessing the potential suitability of proposed development sites for bats based on the presence of suitable roosting features within a structure

Suitability	Commuting and foraging habitats
Negligible	Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats.
Low	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically. However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats (i.e. unlikely to be suitable for maternity or hibernation). A tree of sufficient size and age to contain PRFs but with none seen from the ground or features seen with only very limited roosting potential.
Moderate	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (with respect to roost type only – the assessments in this table are made irrespective of species conservation status, which is established after presence is confirmed).
High	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat.

2.2.14 A pair of close focussing binoculars, a high-powered torch and an endoscope were used (where required) to search for evidence of bats, externally and internally.

2.2.15 Anthony carried out the preliminary roost assessments. Anthony is an active volunteer and professional bat worker who has held a Natural England Class 2 survey licence (2015-16233-CLS-CLS) for bats since 2013, he has been the named ecologist on several EPSM licences and held and been named on several project licences for bats. His qualifications and experience meet the criteria defined in the Technical Guidance Series Competencies for Species Survey: Bats (CIEEM, April 2013).

Great Crested Newt

2.2.16 Great Crested Newts (GCN) (*Triturus cristatus*) are protected under European Law (The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017) and UK Law (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended). As such, it is an offence to deliberately or recklessly undertake the following acts:

- Capturing, killing, disturbing or injuring GCN deliberately
- Damaging or destroying a breeding or resting place
- Obstructing access to their resting or sheltering places (deliberately or by not taking enough care)

Badger

2.2.17 Badger (*Meles meles*) and their setts are protected under UK Law (Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 as amended, and the Protection of Badgers Act 1992). As such, it is an offence to harm badgers or disturb or damage their setts.

2.2.18 The site walkover involved searching for evidence of badger activity. This included sett holes, dung pits, latrines, snuffle holes, tracks, hair, prints, and scratch marks.

Birds

2.2.19 All birds, their nests and eggs are protected at the nest under UK Law (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended). As such it is an offence to intentionally undertake the following acts:

- Kill, injure or take any wild bird
- Take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird whilst it is in use or being built
- Take or destroy the egg of any wild bird
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird listed on Schedule 1 while it is nest building, or at a nest containing eggs or young, or disturb the dependent young of such a bird.

3.0 Results

3.1 Desktop Study

Protected Sites

3.1.1 GMEU provided the following ecological information for the Site and a 2km radius:

- Statutory and Non-Statutory Sites
- Protected and other Notable Species

3.1.2 See Appendix A for summary of ecological data search records.

3.1.3 The full list of protected and notable species identified from the data search was analysed, and the relevant issues have been detailed below. It should be noted that although the information provided by the local record centre is based on current records, it does not represent an exhaustive list of all records.

International/National Protected Sites

3.1.4 The desktop study confirmed that there are no sites with European or National statutory designations within a 2km radius of the Site.

Regional/Local Protected Sites

3.1.5 The desktop study confirmed that there are no Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) or Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs) within a 2km radius of the Site.

Protected Species

Bats

3.1.6 The local record centre identified 48 bat records within a 2km radius of the Site, as follows:

Table 3. Summary of GMEUs bat records

Bat Species	Roost Records	Non-Roost Records	Closest Record
Brown long-eared (<i>Plecotus auritus</i>)	1	0	The roost record is of a probable small roost in a warehouse in West Gorton, approximately 700m north-west of the Site.
Common pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>)	4	28	The closest roost record is a roost of 5 bats in the main building at Stanley Grove Primary School, approximately 710m south-west of the Site. The closest records are from a nocturnal survey at Belle Vue stadium where low levels of bat activity were recorded. Belle Vue stadium is approximately 150m south-east of the Site.
Pipistrelle bat (<i>Pipistrellus</i> sp.)	3	6	The closest roost record is a roost at the Crown Hotel (Openshaw), 750m north-east of the Site. The closest record is Nutsford Vale Park, approximately 910m south of the Site.
Bats (<i>Chiroptera</i>)	0	1	The record is of a dead bat at the Abbey Hey Pub site, approximately 1800m north-east of the Site.
Daubenton's bat (<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>)	0	2	The closest record is from Fairfield (Manchester), approximately 1750m north-east of the Site.

Mouse-eared bat (<i>Myotis</i> sp.)	0	1	The record is from Birchfields Park, approximately 1880m south-west of the Site.
Noctule bat (<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>)	0	1	The record is from Varna Street Primary School Park, approximately 1280m north-east of the Site.
Soprano pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>)	0	1	The record is from Gorton Lower Reservoir, approximately 1700m east of the Site.

Great Crested Newt

- 3.1.7 The local record centre provided 2 GCN records within the 2km search area. Both records are from Wingates Reservoir, approximately 1800m south-east of the Site.

Badger

- 3.1.8 The local record centre confirmed the presence of badger within a 5km radius of the Site. The exact location of the records are confidential.

Birds

- 3.1.9 The local record centre provided numerous bird records within 2km of the search area; including species which are known to nest in habitats present within the site such as dunnoek (*Prunella modularis*), bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*), song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) and starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*).
- 3.1.10 Records of little ringed plover (Schedule 1 species) have also been provided. While the site does not currently support suitable habitat and conditions for this species, if the site is cleared and left undisturbed it may become favourable as have several sites in East Manchester in recent years.

3.2 Site Survey

Habitat Description

- 3.2.1 The Site is approximately 6.7ha and comprises predominately hardstanding and building, with amenity grassland, introduced shrub, plantation woodland and scattered broad-leaved and coniferous trees. Please see Appendix B for Phase 1 Habitat map.

Amenity grassland

- 3.2.2 The amenity grassland (ref. plates 1-4) is currently unmanaged and has developed into a longer, unmanaged coarser sward. The sward is dominated by annual meadow-grass (*Poa annua*), perennial rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*) and red fescue (*Festuca rubra*) with the following species recorded less frequently, cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), rough meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*). The grassland has been colonised by common forb species including cut-leaved crane's-bill (*Geranium dissectum*), black medick (*Medicago lupulina*), Bush vetch (*Vicia sepium*), dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* agg.) and ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*). In some areas bramble scrub is starting to establish as long single stands, creeping through the sward.

Scattered Trees

- 3.2.3 The majority of the scattered trees (ref. plates 5-8) are broad-leaved, predominately around the perimeter of the Site and within the introduced shrub beds within the carpark. This report does not cover in detail the trees that are present within the Site, this is covered in a separate tree survey report (BDP, 2021) The tree species noted across the site include ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), cherry (*Prunus* sp), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), silver birch (*Betula pendula*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), oak (*Quercus* sp.) poplar (*Populus* sp) and willow (*Salix* sp). Young saplings of ash, silver birch and willow are across the Site in small gaps in the hardstanding surface. There are also several planted scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) within the Site.

Introduced Shrub

- 3.2.4 Scattered throughout the Site, around the perimeter and within car parking bays, are a variety of low maintenance, hardy introduced shrubs beds (ref. plates 9-10). Species noted include several cotoneasters (*Cotoneaster* sp.), firethorns (*Pyracantha* spp), box-leaf azara (*Azara microphylla*), variegated pittosporum (*Pittosporum tenuifolium variegatum*), varieties of snowberry (*Symphoricarpos* sp.), variegated evergreen spindle (*Euonymus japonicus*), wrinkled viburnum (*Viburnum rhytidophyllum*), and Oregon grape (*Mahonia japonica*). Several well-established Spanish-dagger (*Yucca gloriosa*) are close to the former cinema. Within many of these beds are young growth of species such as bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) field horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and young tree singular saplings. The Eastern boundary is planted with a narrow band of established broad-leaved scattered trees with an understory of cotoneasters, holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), firethorn, cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) and garden privet (*Ligustrum ovalifolium*).

Plantation Woodland

- 3.2.5 Along the western boundary of the Site there is a belt of planted broad-leaved trees (W1) along an undulating bund of spoil (ref. plate 11) providing a screen between the Site and the adjacent residential housing. The woodland belt is a mixture of cherry, silver birch, sycamore beech, willow and ash and a single Voss's laburnum (*Laburnum × watereri*). A large windthrown horse-chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) is present towards the southern extent of the planting. The woodland belt features a shrub layer of uniformly aged, coppiced hazel (*Corylus avelanna*), with elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), this provides a dense understory which is frequently strewn with litter. There appears to be little in the form of an established ground layer due to the dense stocking of the trees which results in the ground layer being dominated by ivy (*Hedra helix*). A small wind gap/glade was found in the middle of the plantation which is dominated by 4-5 year old growth of dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*) and trailing bramble scrub and creeping thistle.

Hardstanding

- 3.2.6 The dominant habitat within the Site is tarmacadam (ref. plate 12) covered hard standing which covers the majority of the site. Due to the redundant nature of the plot in areas the area has been subjected to fly tipping of garden waste in some of the more accessible areas. Common mosses such as *Grimmia pulvinata* are present on the concrete kerbs adjacent to patches of *Bryum dichotomum* on the tarmac and weed species such as creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and pellitory of the wall (*Parietaria judaica*).

Building

- 3.2.7 Within the Site are five buildings / built structures. The main Showcase Cinema building (B1) (ref. plates 13-18) located at the northern end of the site, a single-story electrical substation (B2) (ref. plate 19) to the south of the cinema building, a small single-story service building (B3) (ref. plate 20) to the north-east of the Site, a billboard above a small single-story metal clad building (B4) (ref. plates 21-22) to the south of the Site and an electricity substation (B5) (ref. plate 23) with palisade fencing to the western boundary of the Site.

Protected Species

Bats

- 3.2.8 Throughout the year, all British bat species (notably pipistrelle bats which have been recorded within 2km of the site) use buildings or trees to roost, they favour areas that tend to be dark, sheltered and undisturbed.
- 3.2.9 The existing buildings, built structures and scattered trees within the Site may provide roosting potential for bats, in particular, pipistrelle species which favour crevice roosting locations within buildings and trees such as behind barge boards/soffits and fascias/hanging tiles and within vertical or horizontal cracks and splits.

Preliminary Roost Assessment

- 3.2.10 The existing Showcase Cinema (ref. plates 13-19) is a two storey concrete construction with a flat roof.

- 3.2.11 The concrete walls of the building predominantly have a tile covering with the main entrance comprising a rendered finish (ref. plates 13-18) with glazed curtain walling.
- 3.2.12 The flat roof comprises a concrete slab with a parapet sealed with a rubber waterproof covering (ref. plates 24-25). The roof is well sealed and does not provide any access / roosting opportunities for bats.
- 3.2.13 There is metal gutter-boxing where the external walls abuts the roof (ref. plates 26-28). The metal gutter-boxing is flush to the external wall and does not provide any access / roosting opportunities for bats.
- 3.2.14 There is a gap in the external wall to the southern elevation (grid reference: SJ8760696269) (ref. plates 29-30) of the building where electrical services feed into the building. The gap is approximately 2.5m high. The flight line to the feature is obstructed by 2 no. air conditioning units. The gap was inspected and no evidence of bats was identified. The area is lit by a security lighting. It is unlikely the features is being used by bats for accessing the building and/or roosting.
- 3.2.15 The internal inspection of the building confirmed the building has a concrete slab flat roof behind the suspended ceilings (ref. plates 31-34). No evidence of bats were identified during the internal inspection. The building has negligible potential to support roosting bats.
- 3.2.16 There is a single-story electrical substation (B2) (ref. plate 19) to the south of the cinema building. The single storey substation is a concrete construction which has a tile external wall covering and a flat roof. The metal flashing which seals the external walls and the roof is well sealed. The building has negligible potential to support roosting bats.
- 3.2.17 The small single-story service building (B3) (ref. plate 20) to the north-east of the Site is constructed of concrete external walls with a tile covering and with a concrete roof with metal flashing sealing the abutment of the walls and roof. The building has a metal door with louvres. The flashing is well sealed and the louvres on the door are too small for bats to access internally. The building has negligible potential to support roosting bats.
- 3.2.18 The small single-story metal clad building (B4) (ref. plates 21-22) to the south of the Site which supports the cinemas billboard is a single skin metal sheet construction with a metal door. The building is well sealed and does not provide access / roosting opportunities for bats. The billboard is a metal frame construction which provides minimal roosting opportunities for bats. The building has negligible potential to support roosting bats.
- 3.2.19 The electricity substation (B5) (ref. plate 23) within palisade fencing to the western boundary of the Site does not provide any roosting opportunities for bats. The structures have negligible potential to support roosting bats.
- 3.2.20 Table 4 outlines the results of the PRF inspection survey of each tree which could be impacted by the proposed development.

Table 4. Summary of the preliminary roost assessment of trees

Suitability to support roosting bats	Tree Reference
High	N/A
Moderate	T16, T19 and G8
Low	T13, T14, T15, T17, T26, T35, T55, G1, G6, G17 and W1
Negligible	T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T6, T7, T8, T9, T10, T11, T12, T18, T20, T21, T22, T23, T24, T25, T27, T28, T29, T30, T31, T32, T33, T34, T36, T37, T38, T39, T40, T41, T42, T43, T44, T45, T46, T47, T48, T49, T50, T51, T52, T53, T54, T56, T57, T58, T59, T60, T61, T62, T63, T64, G2, G3, G4, G5, G7, G9, G10, G11, G12, G13, G14, G15, G16, G18, G19, G20, G21, G22 and G23

Great Crested Newt

- 3.2.21 There are no suitable waterbodies for GCN within a 500m radius of the Site. The habitats on site comprise predominately hardstanding which is an unfavourable habitat for this species. The rank amenity grassland and introduced shrub provides limited value for GCN, however, there are no suitable breeding ponds in the wider landscape.

Badger

- 3.2.22 The rank amenity grassland provides unfavourable foraging habitat for badger and there are some embankments which would be suitable for sett construction, however, no evidence of badger activity was identified within the Site.

Birds

- 3.2.23 The introduced shrub, plantation woodland, scattered trees and buildings provide suitable habitat for nesting birds during the nesting season (March to September).

4.0 Evaluation

4.1 Desktop Study

International/National Protected Sites

- 4.1.1 There are no international/national protected sites within a 2km radius of the Site.

Regional/Local Protected Sites

- 4.1.2 There are no regional/local protected sites within a 2km radius of the Site.

4.2 Site Survey

Habitats

- 4.2.1 The Phase 1 habitats within the Site are common throughout the UK and no nationally rare or locally rare plant species were located during the site survey (Preston et al, 2002).

Non-native invasive plants

- 4.2.2 This report does not cover Japanese Knotweed which has previously been identified within the Site. The location details and proposed eradication / management of Japanese Knotweed is covered in a separately commissioned report (Environet, July 2020).
- 4.2.3 No other non-native invasive plants were identified within / adjacent to the Site.

Protected Species

Bats

- 4.2.4 The preliminary roost assessment concluded that three trees and/or groups of trees (T16, T19 and G8) have moderate suitability to support roosting bats. The arboricultural impact assessment confirmed that these trees should be removed due to their condition, however, prior to the commencement of felling further survey work should be undertaken to establish the value of these trees for roosting bats.
- 4.2.5 The preliminary roost assessment concluded that eleven trees and/or groups of trees (T13, T14, T15, T17, T26, T35, T55, G1, G6, G17 and W1) have low suitability to support roosting bats with the remaining trees and/or groups of trees having negligible suitability to support roosting bats.
- 4.2.6 The plantation tree belts and scattered trees along the boundary provide foraging habitat for the local bat populations and permeability across the site for bats. The bats which are likely to be found foraging within the site are the commoner pipistrelle bats which have a level of tolerance of the urban environment. Given the better and equivalent habitats within the wider landscape and the redevelopment of the Site is considered to have a low impact on the foraging and commuting opportunities for local bat population.

Great Crested Newt

- 4.2.7 There are no suitable waterbodies for GCN within a 500m radius of the Site and the habitats within the Site are predominately unfavourable for GCN. The impact of the proposed redevelopment of the Site on GCN is considered to be negligible.

Badger

- 4.2.8 Although suitable habitat for badger to construct setts and forage is present within the Site, no signs of the species, such as setts, latrines, prints or hair were recorded during the survey. The impact of the proposed redevelopment of the Site on the local badger population is considered to be negligible.

Birds

- 4.2.9 The introduced shrub, plantation woodland, scattered trees and buildings within the Site provide nesting habitat for breeding birds during the nesting season.

5.0 Recommendations

Non-native invasive plants

- 5.1.1 This report does not cover Japanese Knotweed which has previously been identified within the Site. The location details and proposed eradication / management of Japanese Knotweed is covered in a separately commissioned report (Environet, July 2020).
- 5.1.2 No other non-native invasive plants were identified within / adjacent to the Site.

Bats

- 5.1.3 The Showcase Cinema building (B1), single-story electrical substation (B2), single-story service building (B3), single story building supporting the billboard (B4) and electricity substation (B5) provide negligible suitability to support roosting bats.
- 5.1.4 In accordance with the guidelines for assessing the potential suitability of proposed development sites for bats T16, T19 and G8 have been identified as supporting moderate suitability to support a bat roost. As the arboricultural impact assessment recommends the removal of these trees due to their condition further nocturnal survey work should be undertaken. A single pre-dawn re-entry survey and a single dusk emergence survey will be required on the trees between May and August to determine presence/absence of roosting bats prior to the commencement of the felling works.
- 5.1.5 It is possible that further emergence/re-entry surveys will provide adequate information to discount the possible presence of bats. In this case a report will be produced that states the absence of bats and will advise some precautionary actions to be followed during the works and a protocol to be implemented should a bat be discovered.
- 5.1.6 Alternatively should a bat roost be identified the survey effort will need to be adapted to establish the type of roost present and how bats use the tree(s) (e.g. the location of roosting bats, flight paths and flight behaviour, exit and entrance points to the roost). The further roost characteristic information gathered would be used to inform the construction of a replacement roost where the original roost will be lost.
- 5.1.7 Eleven trees (T13, T14, T15, T17, T26, T35, T55, G1, G6, G17 and W1) have been identified with low suitability to support roosting bats. If any of these trees needs to be removed for condition or to enable the development then the tree(s) should be felled under a reasonable avoidance measures method statement.

Birds

- 5.1.8 All bird species are protected at their nest under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Due to suitable nesting habitat (introduced shrub, plantation woodland, scattered trees and buildings) it is recommended that site works that will impact any of these habitats takes place outside the peak bird breeding season (March to September).
- 5.1.9 If site works to these habitats are to be undertaken within the nesting season, then an appropriately qualified ecologist will be required to undertake a site walkover to visually assess suitable habitat for active nests. If active nests are discovered, then site works must cease until the nest is deemed inactive.

Biodiversity Enhancement

5.1.10 In line with the National Planning Policy Framework the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by providing net gains in biodiversity where possible. In order to comply with National Planning Policy Framework the following ecological measures should be incorporated into the development:

- Replace any trees which need to be felled on a like for like basis.
- Maximising native tree and other vegetation planting will provide recognisable fruit and nectar sources for local birds, small mammals and invertebrates and will enhance the biodiversity of the development.
- Areas of biodiverse planting should be provided within the designated soft landscaping to provide a source of food for local fauna.
- Green roof should be considered on any new buildings.
- The increased structural integrity of modern developments reduces the potential for birds and bats to utilise modern buildings for nesting and roosting therefore any new developments integrate a variety of bird and/or bat boxes.

External Lighting

5.1.11 The impact of light to biodiversity within the site, and in particular bats and flying invertebrates should be mitigated through the implementation of a sensitive lighting strategy.

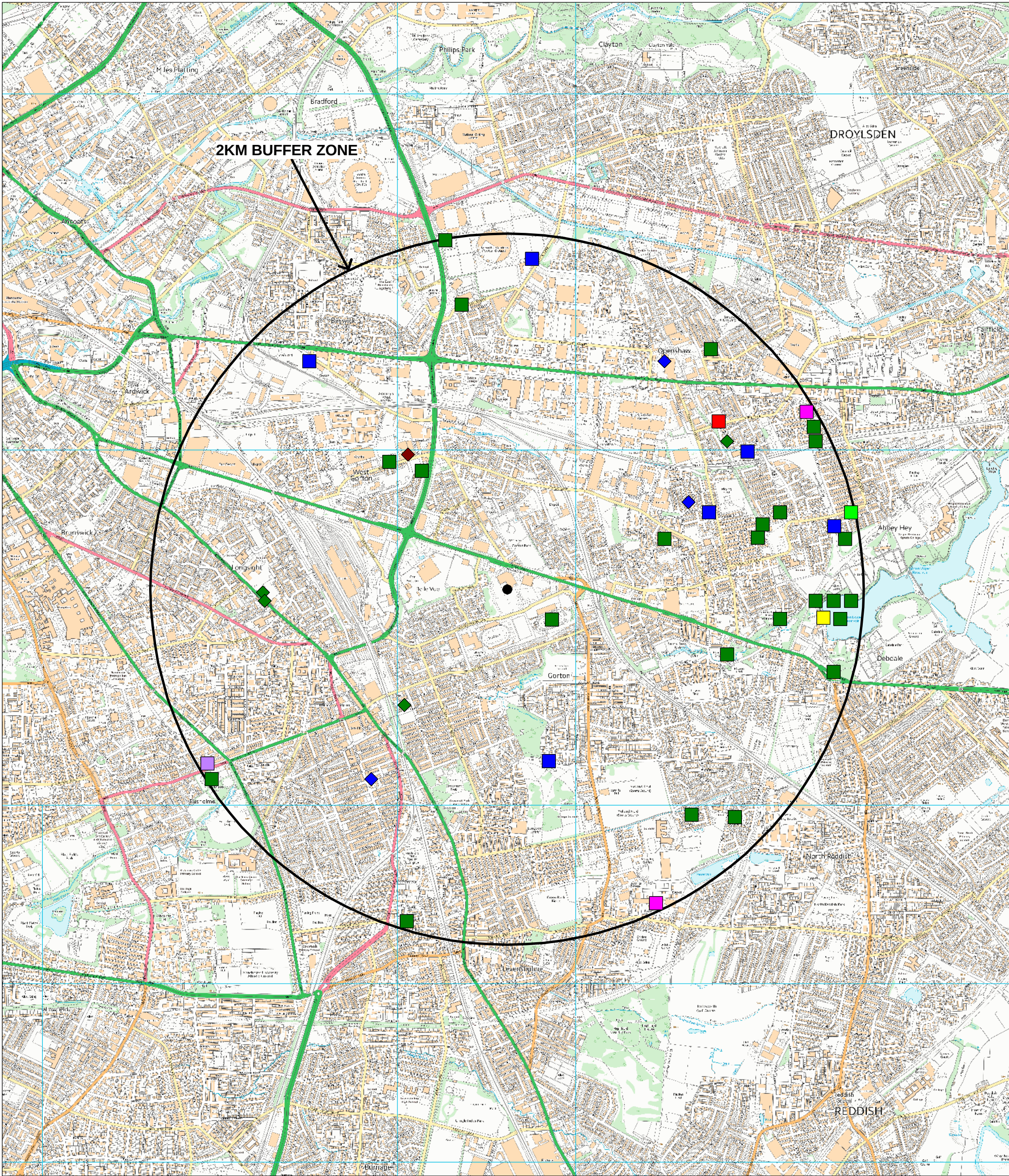
5.1.12 The plantation tree belts and scattered trees along the boundary of the site are considered to be the vulnerable to light pollution as these features provide foraging and commuting habitat for the local bat populations. Any lighting specified near these features should use downward directed lighting with a tightly controlled distribution to limit unwanted backwards spill to minimise the impact of light spill.

5.1.13 As numerous flying insects are attracted to ultra violet light the external lighting should use LED lighting sources which are UV filtered to limit the amount of UV light produced, this will minimise the attraction to insect from adjacent habitats and feeding areas and minimise unnatural behaviour stimulated by the lighting.

6.0 References

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Appendix A - Ecological Data Search



KEY

BAT ROOSTS

- ◆ BROWN LONG-EARED BAT
- ◆ COMMON PIPISTRELLE
- ◆ PIPISTRELLE SP

BATS OTHER SIGNS

- BAT SP
- COMMON PIPISTRELLE
- DAUBENTON'S BAT
- MYOTIS SP
- NOCTULE BAT
- PIPISTRELLE SP
- SOPRANO PIPISTRELLE

GREATER MANCHESTER ECOLOGY UNIT
ECOLOGICAL SEARCH - SJ 87613 96217
HYDE ROAD - MAP 3

SCALE 1:20,000

BAT DATA COURTESY OF SOUTH LANCS BAT GROUP

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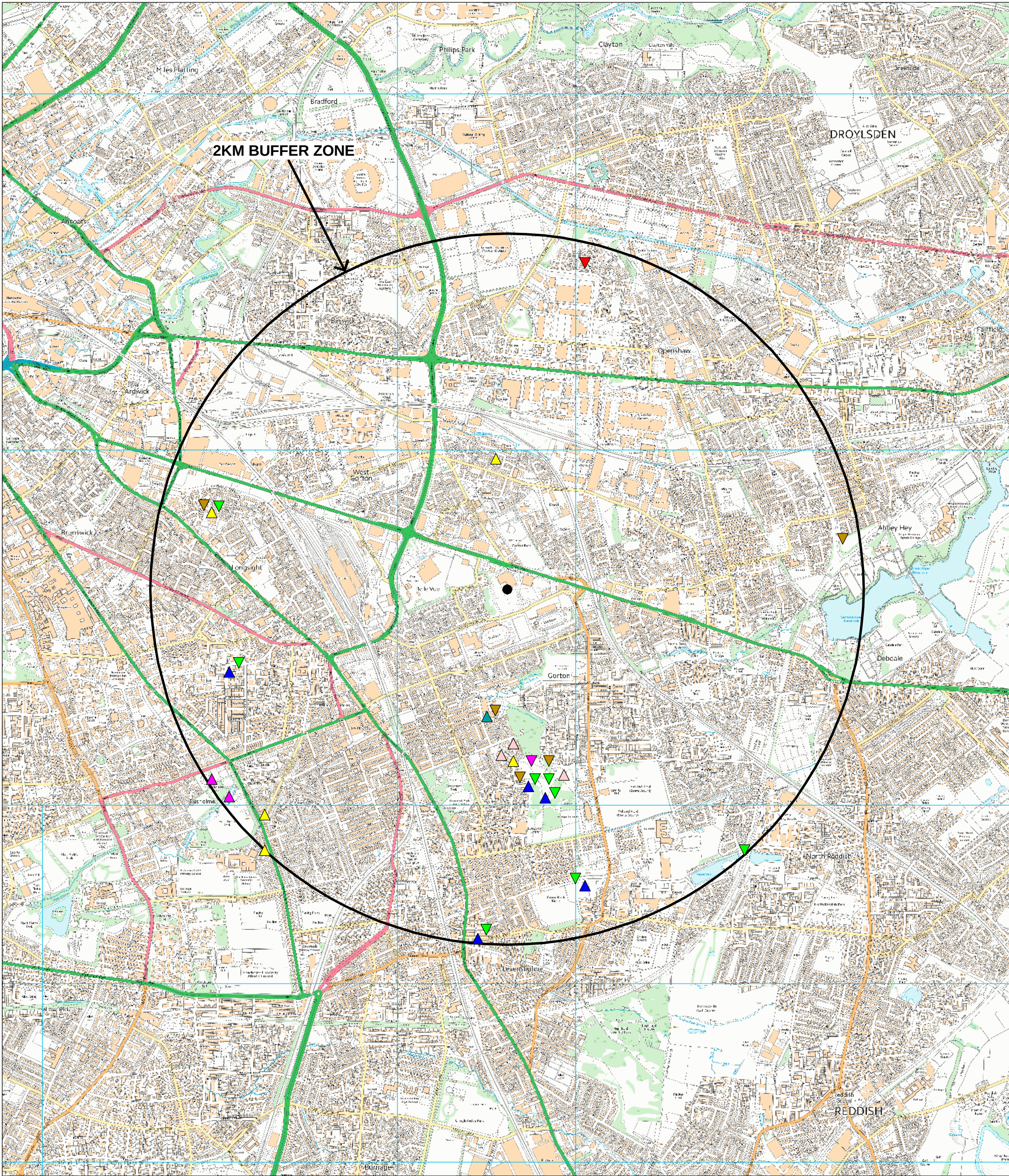
TAMESIDE MBC LICENCE NO LA100022697, 2020



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Ecology Unit

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Date Produced: 27/11/2020



KEY
SECTION 41 SPECIES

- ▲ BULLFINCH
- ▲ DUNNOCK
- ▲ HEDGEHOG
- ▲ HOUSE SPARROW
- ▲ S41 MOTH
- ▲ SKYLARK
- ▲ SMALL HEATH
- ▲ SONG THRUSH
- ▲ STARLING

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HYDE ROAD - MAP 4

SCALE 1:20,000

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Appendix B - Phase 1 Habitat Map



Legend

- Amenity grassland
- Introduced shrub
- Plantation
- Scattered tree
- Scattered shrub
- Building
- Hardstanding
- Site boundary

Project: Hyde Road School	
Drawing Title: Phase 1 habitat map	
Date: 08/01/2020	Revision: 01

Appendix C - Photograph Plates

Plate 1. Amenity grassland



Plate 2. Amenity grassland



Plate 3. Amenity grassland



Plate 4. Amenity grassland



Plate 5. Scattered trees (G22)



Plate 6. Scattered trees (G6)



Plate 7. Scattered trees (southern boundary of site)



Plate 8. Scattered trees (G15)



Plate 9. Introduced shrub



Plate 10. Introduced shrub



Plate 11. Plantation woodland



Plate 12. Hardstanding



Plate 13. Showcase Cinema (northern elevation)



Plate 14. Showcase Cinema (north-west elevation)



Plate 15. Showcase Cinema (north-west elevation)



Plate 16. Showcase Cinema (south-west elevation)



Plate 17. Showcase Cinema (southern elevation)



Plate 18. Showcase Cinema (north-east elevation)



Plate 19. Electricity sub-station



Plate 20. Service building



Plate 21. Billboard



Plate 22. Billboard



Plate 23. Electricity substation



Plate 24. Showcase Cinema (roof)

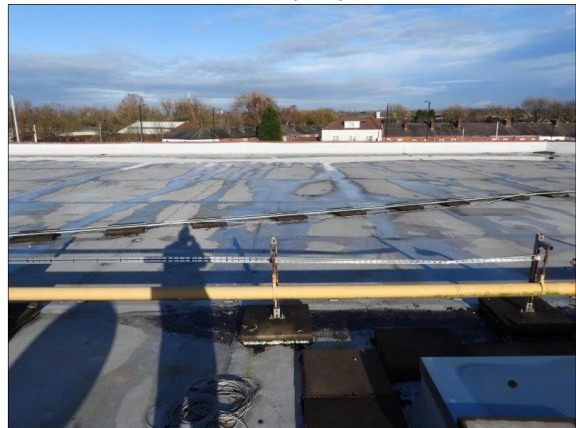


Plate 25. Showcase Cinema (roof)



Plate 26. Showcase Cinema (metal gutter-boxing)



Plate 27. Showcase Cinema (metal gutter-boxing)



Plate 28. Showcase Cinema (metal gutter-boxing)

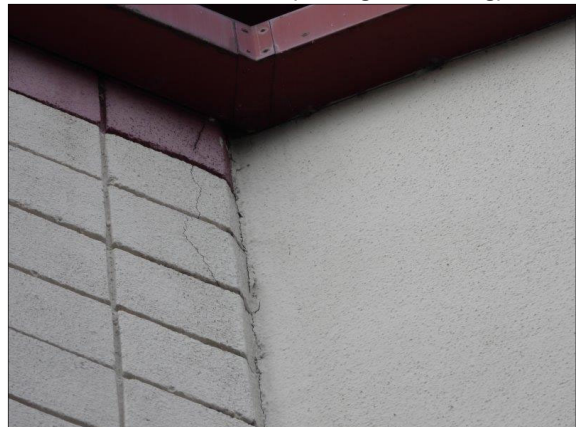


Plate 29. Showcase Cinema (gap in the external wall)



Plate 30. Showcase Cinema (gap in the external wall)



Plate 31. Showcase Cinema (atrium)

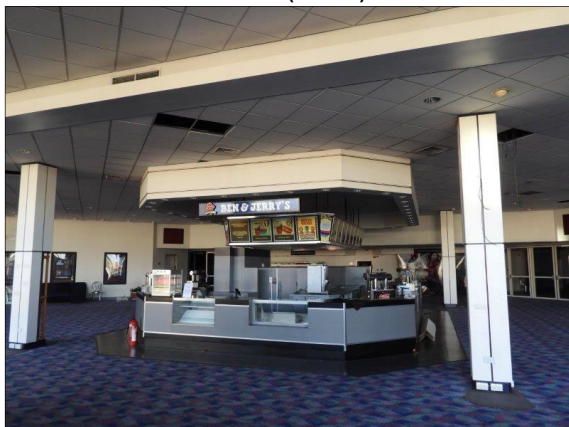


Plate 32. Showcase Cinema (auditorium)

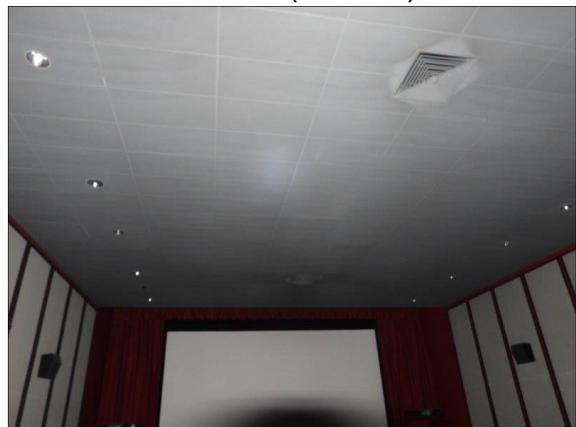


Plate 33. Showcase Cinema (projector room)



Plate 34. Showcase Cinema (concrete roof)

